

Appendix L USFWS Letter – Species List

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services

Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
Carlsbad, California 92011

In Reply Refer To:
FWS-WRIV-08B0080-11SL0452

JUN 30 2011

Craig Wentworth
Department of Transportation
District 8
Environmental Planning (MS 822)
464 W. Fourth Street, 6th Floor
San Bernardino, California 92401-1400

Subject: Updated Species List of Candidate, Proposed, Threatened, or Endangered Species
Potentially Occurring in the Vicinity of the Mid-County Parkway Project in
Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Wentworth:

This letter is in response to your written request, received on April 6, 2011, for updated information on federally endangered, threatened, and proposed species that may occur in the vicinity of the proposed Mid County Parkway project (Project) in Riverside County, California. A species list was last provided in November 2005. The proposed Project area is located between Interstate 215 and State Route 79 in western Riverside County. The proposed Project is being developed by the Riverside County Transportation Commission in cooperation with Caltrans District 8 and the Federal Highway Administration. To assist you in evaluating the potential occurrence of federally listed endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species that may occur in the vicinity of the area identified, we are providing the updated enclosed list.

The proposed Project is located in the plan area of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The MSHCP establishes a multiple species conservation program to minimize and mitigate habitat loss and the incidental take of covered species associated with covered activities. Caltrans and Riverside County are signatory to the MSHCP, and, therefore, should conduct this project consistent with the provisions of the MSHCP and its associated implementation agreement and permit.

Because we do not have site-specific information for the proposed Project area, we recommend that you seek assistance from a biologist familiar with the habitat conditions and associated species in and around the proposed Project site to assess the actual potential for direct, indirect and cumulative impacts likely to result from the proposed activity.



There are also several sensitive habitat community types that could potentially occur in the project area. These include woodlands, coastal sage scrub, scale broom scrub, native grasslands, wetlands, riparian habitat, and vernal pools. In addition, we are concerned about the effects of the proposed Project on habitat connectivity and wildlife movement in the region.

Please contact the California Department of Fish and Game for State-listed and other sensitive species that may occur in the area of the proposed Project. State-listed species are protected under the provisions of the California Endangered Species Act. Rare plant species that may occur in the proposed Project area are included in the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) inventory of rare and endangered vascular plants in California. State-listed and CNPS species require full consideration under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please note that due to out-of-date data on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office is now hosting all critical habitat GIS data within our jurisdictional area on our website at www.fws.gov/carlsbad. Select the GIS DATA link to access current critical habitat layers.

Should you have any questions regarding the species list provided please contact Rachel Wolstenholme at (760) 431-9440, ext 365.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kennon A. Corey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kennon A. Corey
Assistant Field Supervisor

Enclosure

**Federally Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate Species that May Occur in the
Vicinity of the Proposed Mid-County Parkway Project in Riverside County, California**

June 21, 2011

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status
<u>Mammals</u>		
San Bernardino kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	endangered
Stephens' kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	endangered
<u>Birds</u>		
yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	candidate
southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	endangered
coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	threatened
least Bell's vireo	<i>vireo bellii pusillus</i>	endangered
<u>Amphibians</u>		
arroyo toad	<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	endangered
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytoni</i>	threatened
<u>Invertebrates</u>		
vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchei</i>	threatened
Quino checkerspot butterfly	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	endangered
Riverside fairy shrimp	<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	endangered
<u>Plants</u>		
Munz's onion	<i>Allium munzii</i>	endangered
San Diego ambrosia	<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>	endangered
Braunton's milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>	endangered
San Jacinto Valley crownscale	<i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notatior</i>	endangered
Nevin's barberry	<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	endangered
thread-leaved brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	threatened

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Vicinity of the Proposed Mid-County Parkway Project in Riverside County, California**

June 21, 2011

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status
<u>Plants (cont.)</u>		
San Diego button celery	<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i>	endangered
slender-horned spineflower	<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	endangered
spreading navarretia	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	threatened
California Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	endangered
Brand's phacelia	<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	candidate